

**Legislative Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments
HB 5037 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,
2023
February 23, 2022**

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Mark Desrosiers. I live in Columbia, CT, and have been practicing dentistry in Connecticut since 1988.

I am writing in regards to the Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments for the Department of Social Services and the proposed increase to adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Years ago, many of my fellow dentists and I did not participate in Medicaid mainly because the reimbursement levels were too low to cover our overhead expenses. Thanks to a suit brought forth from recipients, the state was forced to increase fees so that a proper provider network could be established. Once the fees were increased, many of us began to participate. Now we are in a situation where the fees have not increased in fourteen years! As a result, many of us have stopped our participation. If the fees do not even cover your overhead, you are not in a position to continue.

When you consider the stagnant reimbursement levels, and couple that with the significant increases in overhead, we are forced to discontinue our participation. We are faced with increases in labor costs, dental supplies, and personal protective equipment, all of which have increased due to the pandemic. While we want to help the needy of our state, it is impossible to continue under the current circumstances.

With decreased numbers of providers, many Connecticut citizens will seek emergency care for oral conditions in local hospitals. It is far more cost effective, and better for the patient, to treat those issues before they become an emergency.

Please raise the adult reimbursement rates in Medicaid.

I thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark B. Desrosiers, DMD
132E Route 87
Columbia, CT 06237
860-377-4310